

**GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY & X-MEN**

**FARMER  
GRACIA  
MAIOLO**

THE BLACK CORTEX™



## THE SAGA BEGINS HERE!

**MARVEL**
**ALPHA**



WELL?  
WHO'S  
GONNA BE  
THE FIRST TO  
TRY IT?





# THE BLACK VORTEX

When a blood bounty was placed on Peter Quill's head, Peter found himself hounded by a group of mercenaries called the Slaughter Squad, henchmen of the mysterious Mister Knife. Upon being captured by the Squad, Peter found himself face-to-face with Knife, who he discovered was, in fact, his father, J-Son, the deposed Emperor of Spartax. Though Kitty Pryde, Peter's new girlfriend, arrived in time to save Peter from being brainwashed by his father, they both remain unaware of Knife's true plan.

Having obtained an object of unimaginable cosmic power known as the Black Vortex and recruited the son of Thanos, Thane, to his cause, it looks like Mister Knife's quest to reclaim control of the galaxy may be a greater threat than they know.

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X-Men created by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby



**TWELVE BILLION YEARS AGO.**  
**PLANET VISCARDI.**

**WE HAVE  
LIFTOFF!**







OUR HOPES  
AND PRAYERS  
GO WITH YOU,  
BRAVE STAR  
SCOUTS!



IT'S  
ALMOST PAST THE  
GODHEAD!

THIS  
IS IT!

THEY  
SAY THIS  
TIME FOR  
SURE...



**KATHOOM**

CATASTROPHE!

REPEAT--  
CATASTROPHE!



DAMN  
IT.



NINE ROCKETS.  
NINE FAILURES.

WE MADE IT  
FROM THE CAVES  
TO THE SKY IN **FOUR**  
**GENERATIONS--**  
IS THIS IT?

HAVE WE  
REACHED THE  
CEILING OF THE  
**COSMOS?**

IMPOSSIBLE.

WE KNOW  
THERE IS **MORE**  
OUT THERE THAN JUST  
US. WE KNOW THERE IS  
MORE TO THE UNIVERSE  
THAN JUST THE  
**VISCARDI.**

WE KNOW  
BECAUSE OF  
YOU, OUR LORD  
**GODHEAD.**

YOU TOWER  
ABOVE US AND  
NEVER **SPEAK!** NEVER  
CONCEDE OUR  
EXISTENCE!

DOES  
OUR BRAVERY  
NOT **MOVE** YOU?  
DOES OUR AMBITION  
NOT **INSPIRE**  
YOU?

I AM **GARA!**  
I WILL LIVE WITH  
THE **STARS!** CAN  
YOU NOT **HEAR**  
ME?!

HAVE YOU NEVER  
FELT **LONGING** AS WE  
DO? HAVE YOU NEVER  
DREAMED **HIGHER** THAN  
YOUR **GRASP?**

DO YOU  
NOT LOVE US? WE  
ONLY WISH TO BE  
CLOSER TO YOU...  
TO KNOW THE  
**COSMOS.**





**GRRRRN**



**KAZZRN**



DEAR  
GODHEAD.

WHAT IS  
THIS?

CAN  
IT BE...?





IS IT A  
GIFT?

THE  
ANSWER TO OUR  
PRAYERS?

OUR POTENTIAL....  
REALIZED?

"YOU HAVE  
GONE TOO  
FAR--"



**THE JEAN GREY SCHOOL  
FOR HIGHER LEARNING.  
EARTH.**

--AND YOU  
KNOW IT, HANK.  
YOU BROKE IT,  
YOU FIX IT.

I HAVE  
BROKEN  
NOTHING,  
STORM.

THE  
ORIGINAL  
X-MEN HAVE BEEN  
**MISPLACED**  
IN THE TIME-  
STREAM.

THEY'RE  
NOT MISPLACED,  
I **BROUGHT**  
THEM HERE.

I KNOW  
**ENOUGH** ABOUT  
TIME AND SPACE TO  
KNOW THAT THIS IS  
A PROBLEM.

NONE OF US  
KNOW ENOUGH  
TO KNOW WHAT  
IS HAPPENING.

**THAT IS THE  
PROBLEM!**

I CONCEDE...I  
DON'T UNDERSTAND THE  
**FULL CONSEQUENCES** OF  
THE DISPLACEMENT. THE TIME-  
SPACE CONTINUUM IS TOO  
**COMPLICATED...**

**DRORO MUNADE**  
a.k.a. **STORM**  
X-Men leader.  
Weather master.

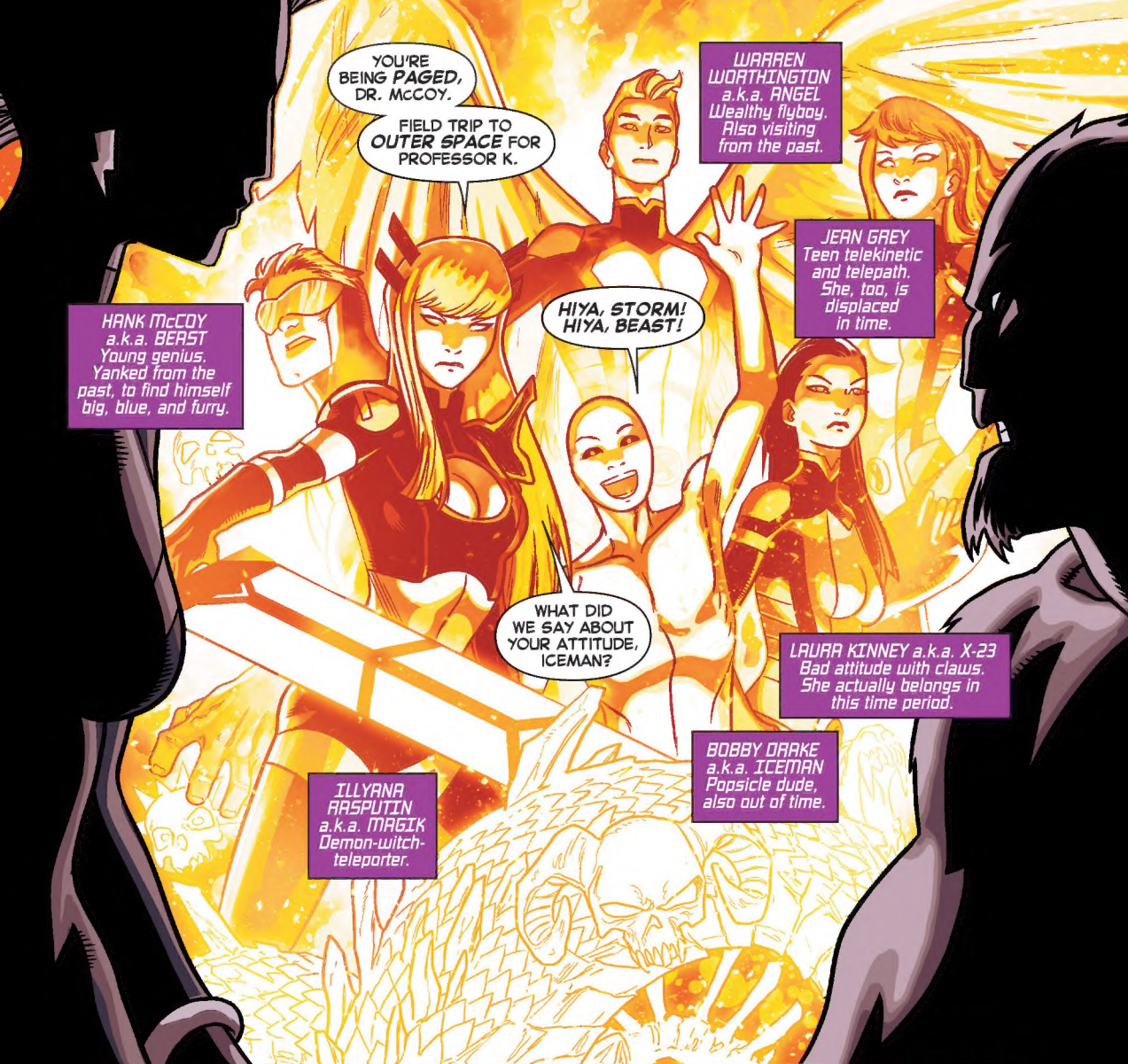
**DOCTOR HANK MCCOY**  
a.k.a. **BEAST**  
Big blue furry genius.

IF I COULD  
SEE IT ALL AT  
**ONCE--**

**KZZANK**

HANK,  
LOOK!





YOU'RE  
BEING PAGED,  
DR. MCCOY.

FIELD TRIP TO  
OUTER SPACE FOR  
PROFESSOR K.

WARREN  
WORTHINGTON  
a.k.a. ANGEL  
Wealthy flyboy.  
Also visiting  
from the past.

JEAN GREY  
Teen telekinetic  
and telepath.  
She, too, is  
displaced  
in time.

HANK MCCOY  
a.k.a. BEAST  
Young genius.  
Yanked from the  
past, to find himself  
big, blue, and furry.

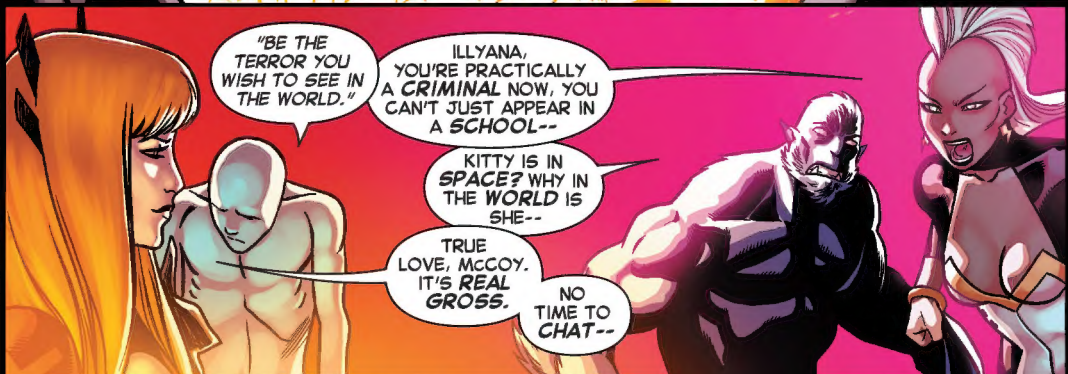
HIYA, STORM!  
HIYA, BEAST!

WHAT DID  
WE SAY ABOUT  
YOUR ATTITUDE,  
ICEMAN?

LAURA KINNEY a.k.a. X-23  
Bad attitude with claws.  
She actually belongs in  
this time period.

ILLYANA  
RASPUTIN  
a.k.a. MAGIK  
Demon-witch-  
teleporter.

BOBBY DRAKE  
a.k.a. ICEMAN  
Popsicle dude,  
also out of time.



"BE THE  
TERROR YOU  
WISH TO SEE IN  
THE WORLD."

ILLYANA,  
YOU'RE PRACTICALLY  
A CRIMINAL NOW. YOU  
CAN'T JUST APPEAR IN  
A SCHOOL--

KITTY IS IN  
SPACE? WHY IN  
THE WORLD IS  
SHE--

TRUE  
LOVE, MCCOY.  
IT'S REAL  
GROSS.

NO  
TIME TO  
CHAT--



--YOU'LL  
HAVE TO  
WAIT FOR  
KITTY TO  
EXPLAIN.

"I AM NOT  
GONNA  
EXPLAIN  
AGAIN!"



THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY SHIP.

IF I SAY THE  
KREE DUDE CAN  
BREATHE FIRE,  
THEN GUESS  
WHAT?

THAT KRUTAKER  
BELCHES LIKE A  
BLOWTORCH!

I AM  
GROOT?

BECAUSE  
I'M THE GAME  
MASTER, THAT'S  
WHY!

GROOT  
He is Groot.

ROCKET RACCOON  
Big mouth, big guns.  
Don't call him a raccoon.

GAMORA  
Most dangerous  
woman in the  
galaxy.

FOR  
MY MOVE, I  
KILL THE GAME  
MASTER.

FOR MY  
MOVE, I TAKE  
OVER AS GAME  
MASTER.

DRAX  
Body of  
muscle, heart  
of stone.

FLASH THOMPSON  
a.k.a AGENT VENOM  
Elite soldier with  
sentient alien armor.

I'M SICK  
OF HAVING MY  
CHARACTER'S  
HAND STUCK  
IN A SKRULL'S  
FLARKIN.

OKAY,  
OKAY, ROCKET!  
IN THIS IMPOSSIBLE,  
IMPOSSIBLE REALITY,  
A KREE BREATHES  
FIRE.

CAN  
WE GET ON  
WITH THE  
GAME?!

CAROL DANVERS a.k.a  
CAPTAIN MARVEL  
Avenger, Guardian, here  
to punch holes in the sky.

OKAY, OKAY,  
LISTEN UP!

"OUT OF THE  
INKY BLACKNESS  
OF THE COSMOS,  
A NEW THREAT  
APPEARS! IT'S SO  
FRIGHTENING,  
SO SCARY,  
YOU--"

OH  
HELL  
NO.

DING  
DING  
DING





HEY, GUYS, IT'S ME! YOUR BESTEST, FAVORITE FRIEND, PETER QUILL!

DUDE, I WAS ON A ROLL!

I AM GROOOOOOT!



YOU INTERRUPTED GAME NIGHT!

PRANK CALL, HANG UP.

FOR MY MOVE, I KILL PETER.



GUYS, GUYS! YOU KNOW I RESPECT THE SANCTITY OF GAME NIGHT--

NOT ENOUGH TO ATTEND IT!

I WOULDN'T INTERRUPT IT EXCEPT FOR AN EMERGENCY!

I'M IN BIG TROUBLE. LIKE, FOR REAL.



"IT STARTED WHEN KITTY AND I SNUCK INTO MISTER KNIFE'S FLYING FORTRESS..."

"...DON'T ASK ME HOW."

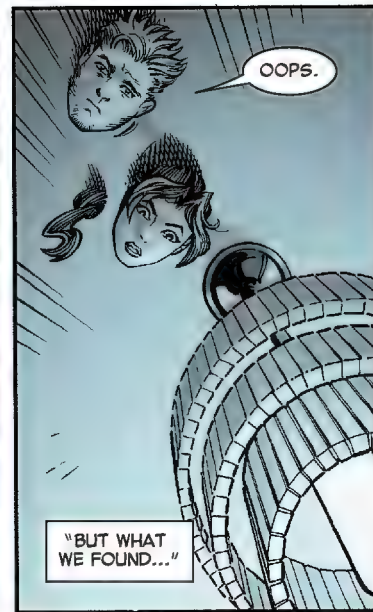
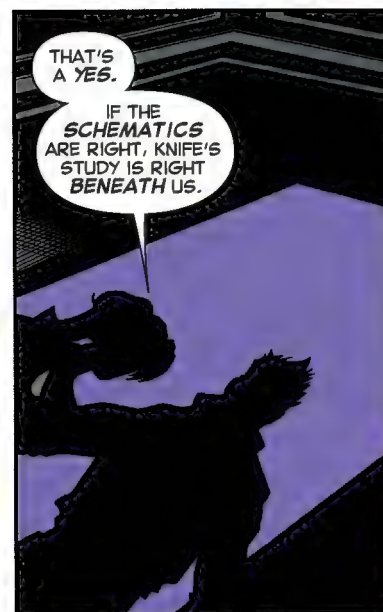
I SWEAR, THE LAUNDRY COMES BACK SMELLING WORSE THAN WHEN IT GOES OUT.



I SWEAR, YOU SAY THE SAME THING EVERY WEEK.

WHAT THE HELL--?







"...WAS WAY MORE THAN WE BARGAINED FOR."

BEHOLD...  
A GATEWAY  
TO INFINITE  
POWER.

**BLACK  
VORTEX**

KNIFE,  
DO YOU REALLY  
EXPECT ME TO BE  
IMPRESSED--

--WITH THIS  
PIECE OF ANTIQUE  
GARBAGE?

BEHOLD  
AGAIN, THANE.

THE LAST  
LIVING BLOOD  
BROTHER. HE AND HIS  
SIBLING ONCE SHARED A  
CONNECTION. THEIR  
POWER FED OFF  
EACH OTHER.

SINCE HIS TWIN  
BROTHER DIED...HE  
HAS BEEN STARVED OF  
THAT POWER. WASTING  
AWAY IN SPIE OF HIS  
WARRIOR SPIRIT.

BUT  
THERE IS A  
SOLUTION!

I...I...I  
SUBMIT TO  
THE BLACK  
VORTEX.

YEEAARGH--!

THE OLD  
BROTHER IS  
GONE. MAY I  
PRESENT  
TO YOU--

HUFF  
HUFF  
HUFF...



**RAAAAAGUH!**

--BROTHER  
BLOOD!

THE NEWEST  
MEMBER OF THE NEWLY  
RE-CHRISTENED--

**==SLAUGHTER  
LORDS!**

**FATHER  
DIABLO**  
Smoke monster  
from Planet X.

**DELPHINIA**  
Exiled  
Centaurian.

**CZAR  
DOON**  
Veteran  
of cosmic  
crime.

**ITISA  
THE HUNTER**  
Shi'ar assassin.

OH  
CRAP.

THOSE  
ARE THE  
GUYS WHO  
KIDNAPPED  
YOU!

YEAH, BUT  
THEY DIDN'T  
LOOK LIKE  
THAT.





WE GOTTA GET THE HELL OUTTA HERE.

DIDN'T YOU SEE WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

NOT OUR PROBLEM!

OR HIMSELF?!

REMEMBER MY PROMISE TO YOU, THANE? SECURITY. PROTECTION. FOR YOU AND YOUR FLOCK OF BELIEVERS BACK HOME.

THE POWER TO DEFEAT ANYONE WHO WANTS YOU DEAD...INCLUDING THANOS.

THAT MIRROR--WHAT IF IT CAN TRANSFORM ANYONE? YOU SAW THE SLAUGHTER SQUAD NOW--

--WHAT IF YOUR DAD USES IT ON EVERYONE IN THIS FORTRESS?

AW, MAN... YOU WANT TO MAKE IT OUR PROBLEM?!

HOW...?!

ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS SUBMIT.

SUBMIT TO THE COSMOS.

SUBMIT TO YOUR TRUE POTENTIAL.

LIMITLESS POWER. YOUR PAYMENT FOR DOING ONE JOB FOR ME. JUST ONE.

YES...

...I SUBMIT...





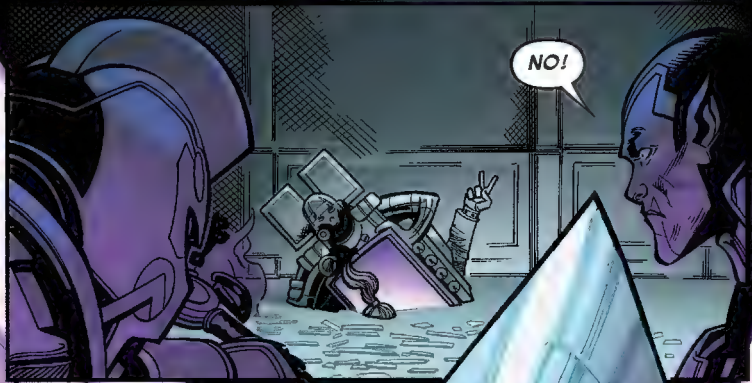
YEE  
HAAWW!

KSSSSHAM



HOW'S  
THIS FOR  
"MOUSY"?

KRAKAKA  
GRAAGH!



NO!

BOSS!  
YOU OKAY?

STOOOPPP  
THEM NOW!

IDIOTS!  
STOP THEM!

FOLLOW  
THEM! BEFORE  
THEY--

COOL  
YOUR  
JETS.

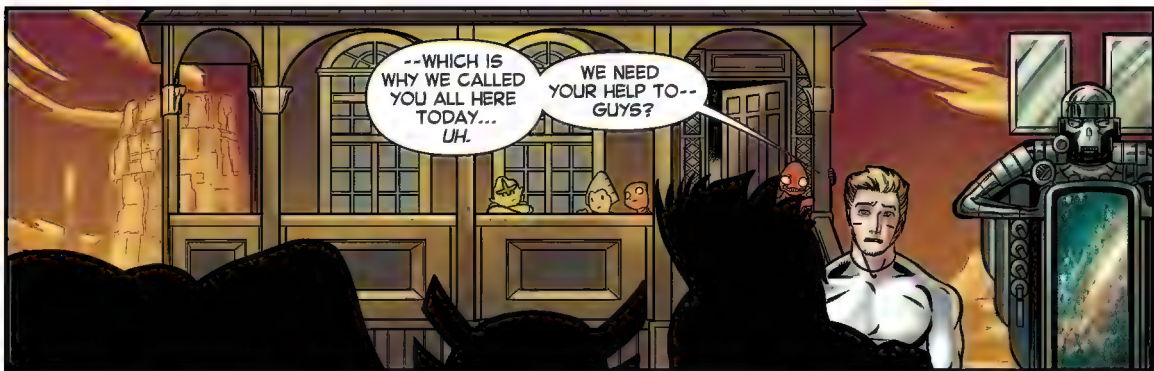
MISA  
THE HUNTER  
KNOWS WHERE  
THE LOVEBIRDS  
KEEP THEIR  
NEST.

"WE WERE  
GONE BEFORE  
THEY KNEW IT.

"BUT THAT WAS THE  
EASY PART. NOW  
WE WERE IN WAAAAAY  
OVER OUR HEADS--"



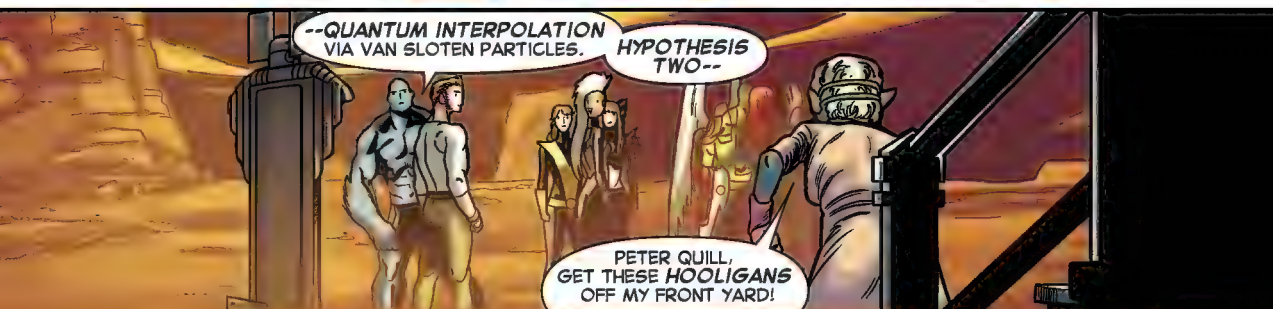
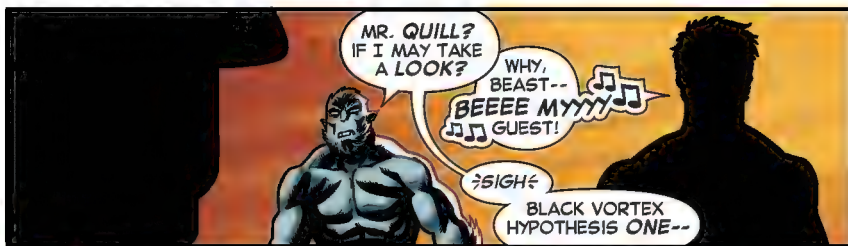




## PLANET SPARTAX









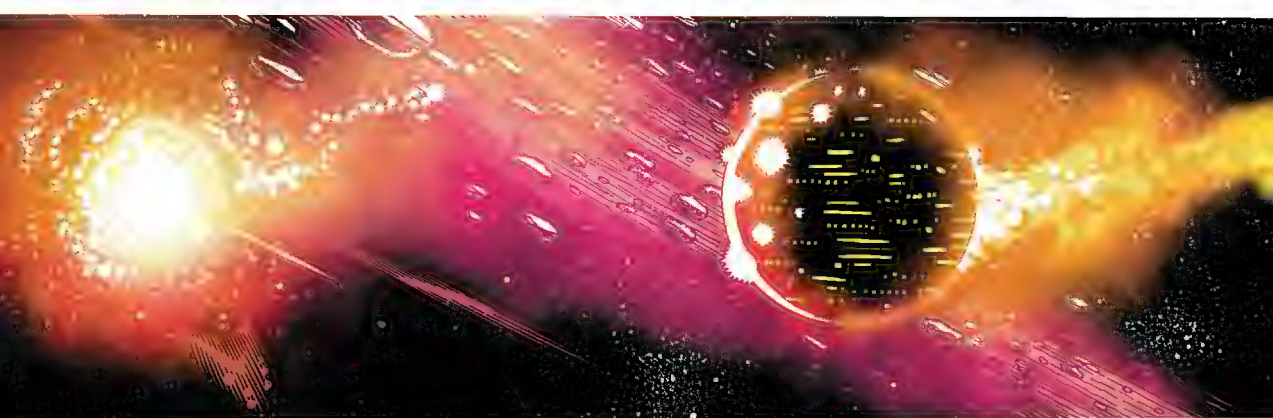
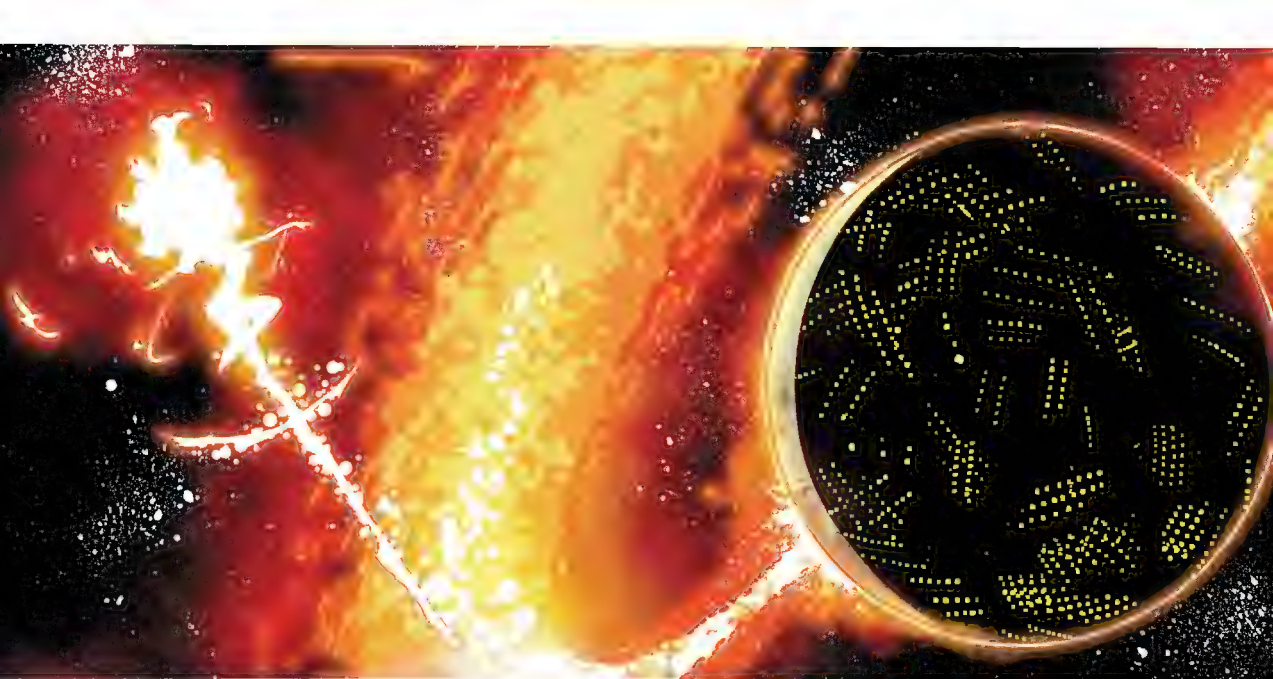






GODDESS.







*PLANET VISCARDI.*  
*ONE YEAR AFTER THE ADVENT OF THE BLACK VORTEX.*



--DESTROY  
THE BLACK  
VORTEX!

NEVER,  
ADRON!

IT  
DESTROYED US...  
STOP BEFORE  
IT DESTROYS  
YOU--

NEVER.

✱



**GODHEAD!**

WE DID ASK  
AS YOU ASKED! ALL  
VISCARDI SUBMITTED  
TO THE BLACK  
VORTEX!

**IS THIS  
WHAT YOU  
SOUGHT?!**

FOR OUR  
ONCE-NOBLE RACE  
TO BE **TORN APART**  
AND **ANNIHILATED**  
FROM WITHIN?

**IS THIS  
WHAT YOU  
WANTED?**

I AM  
GARA,  
THE  
LAST OF THE  
VISCARDI!

ANSWER ME,  
GODHEAD!

**ANSWER  
ME!**

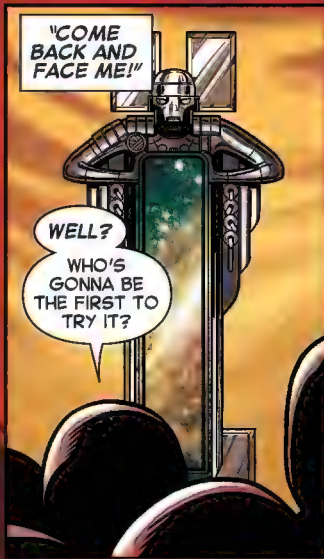
NO.

VRSSSH

HOW DARE  
YOU **ABANDON**  
US NOW--?!

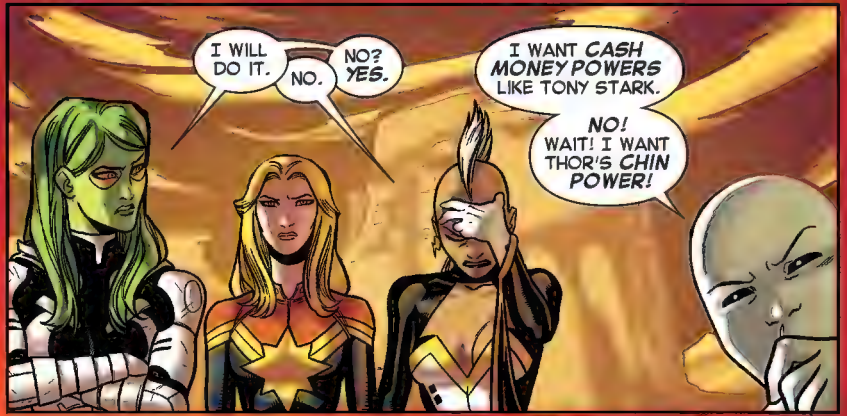
COME BACK,  
GODHEAD!





"COME  
BACK AND  
FACE ME!"

WELL?  
WHO'S  
GONNA BE  
THE FIRST TO  
TRY IT?



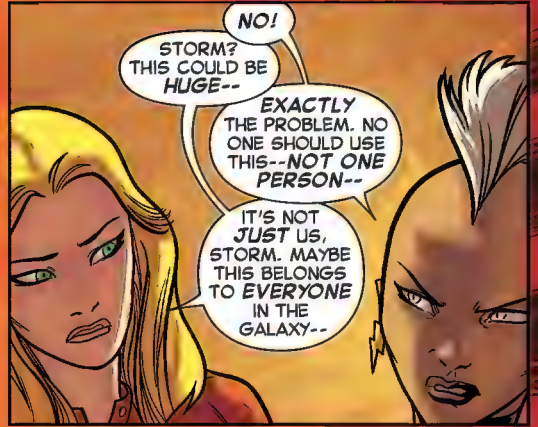
I WILL  
DO IT.

NO.

NO?  
YES.

I WANT CASH  
MONEY POWERS  
LIKE TONY STARK.

NO!  
WAIT! I WANT  
THOR'S CHIN  
POWER!



NO!

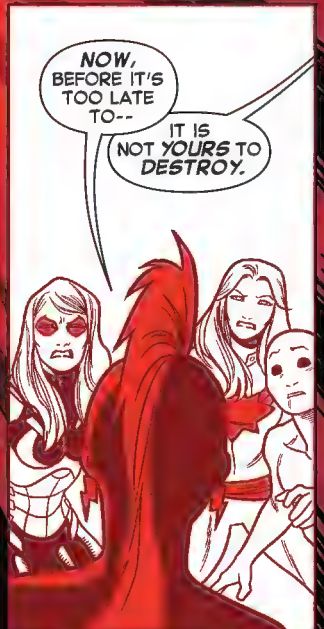
STORM?  
THIS COULD BE  
HUGE--

EXACTLY  
THE PROBLEM. NO  
ONE SHOULD USE  
THIS--NOT ONE  
PERSON--

IT'S NOT  
JUST US,  
STORM. MAYBE  
THIS BELONGS  
TO EVERYONE  
IN THE  
GALAXY--

**NO!**

WE MUST  
DESTROY  
THE BLACK  
VORTEX!



NOW,  
BEFORE IT'S  
TOO LATE  
TO--

IT IS  
NOT YOURS TO  
DESTROY.









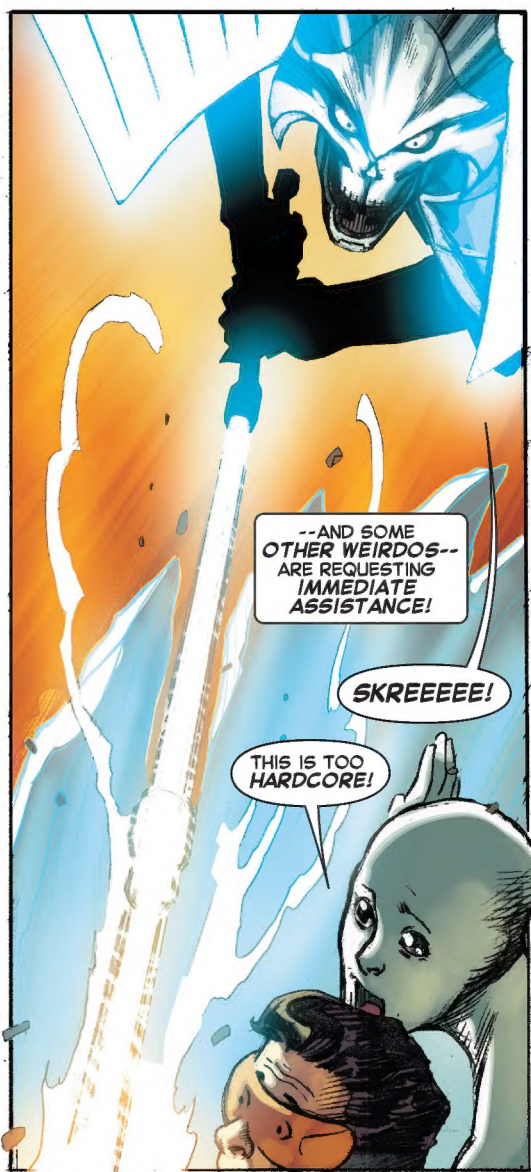
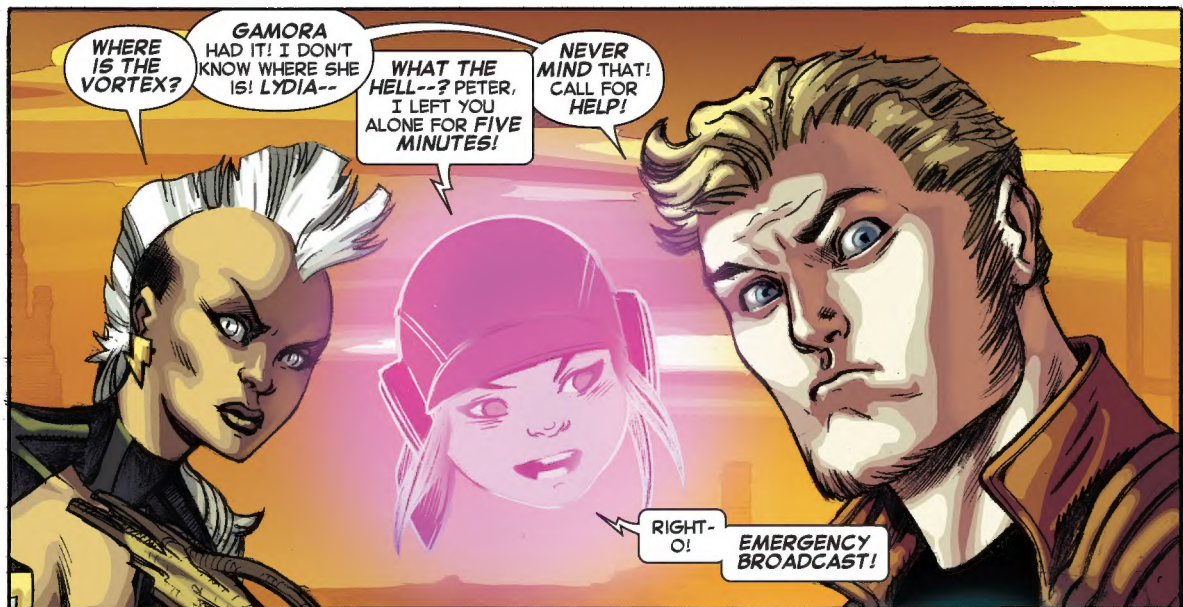
BAROOM

BROKOBOOM













WE GOT  
THE BLACK  
VORTEX--

--AND  
WE'RE GETTING  
OUR BUTTS  
KICKED!



REPEAT--  
EMERGENCY  
BROADCAST--!

I'VE GOT  
THE BLACK  
VORTEX!  
SLAUGHTER  
LORDS--



--RETREAT...?

**KRZAANK**

WRONG.



A full-page comic book illustration. In the center, a figure with pale skin, glowing yellow eyes, and a black hooded cloak stands. A skull-shaped tattoo is visible on their right forearm. They hold a long, glowing yellow sword. The background is a dark space filled with stars, a large yellow sun or moon in the upper right, and swirling yellow energy or flames. In the lower left, a stone structure with a window showing a galaxy is partially visible.

YOU  
AREN'T GOING  
ANYWHERE.

TO BE CONTINUED IN  
THE BLACK VORTEX CHAPTER 2:  
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #24!



GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY & X-MEN

# THE BLACK VORTEX

FOLLOW THE SAGA OF THE BLACK VORTEX IN  
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #24



THE BLACK  
VORTEX ALPHA #1

GUARDIANS OF  
THE GALAXY #24

LEGENDARY  
STAR-LORD #9

ALL-NEW  
X-MEN #38

ALL-NEW  
X-MEN #39

GUARDIANS  
TEAM-UP #3

GUARDIANS OF  
THE GALAXY #25

NOVA #28

LEGENDARY  
STAR-LORD #10

CYCLOPS #12

CAPTAIN  
MARVEL #14

LEGENDARY  
STAR-LORD #11

THE BLACK VORTEX  
OMEGA #1